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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SUBJECT: Trip Report, May 11-12, 1976, PCB Survey

DATE: MAY 24 1976

FROM: *D. Stefani*
Dennis F. Stefani
Sanitary Engineer, Water Compliance Section - M/S 521

TO: W. James Sweeney
Chief, Water Compliance Section

On May 11, Brenda Pangborn and I traveled to Portland, Oregon to inspect and sample the following four industries for the presence of PCB's:

1. Boise Cascade Papers - Vancouver, Wash.

By prior arrangement with Rick Webber, environmental engineer for the facility, a 24-hour composite sample was to be obtained from the de-inking mill process water. I had requested on the phone that the sample be taken from the de-inking mill before the effluent entered the clarifier; however, it was taken from the clarifier after introduction of other mill effluent.

2. Portable Equipment Co. - Clackamas, Ore.

At the request of Steve Carter of the Department of Environmental Quality, Portable Equipment Co. was sampled. The Company is a wire reclamation facility which utilizes an incinerator to remove insulation from used wire. Periodically they receive scrapped transformers from PGE and PP&L, from which they recover the coil wire.

While at the facility the owner told Steve Carter and me that he had received four transformers from PGE which contained askarels. PGE had informed him of their contents and arrangements were made to pump the PCB's from the transformers into 55 gallon drums. This was done, the drums shipped back to PGE, and the transformers scrapped. No effort was made to clean the transformers prior to scrapping or to clean the pumping apparatus. According to the owner, he is to receive no more PCB transformers in the future.

Samples were taken of the effluent from the oil/water separator and the soil in the vicinity.

3. Publishers Paper Co. - Oregon City, Ore.

A sample was taken of the effluent from the de-inking facility prior to it entering the clarifier. Publishers split a sample for their

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own analysis. Mr. Rozycki, Technical Services Manager, requested we inform them of our analysis results.

4. Precision Castparts, Inc. - Portland, Ore.

Precision Castparts is an investment casting facility which utilizes wax to make the molds used to manufacture high precision metal castings. According to Mr. Mike Hosler, PCB's (Aroclor 5460 and T60 resin) have been used in the wax up until February 1976. They have no plans to use it in the future.

The plant recycles all the wax used in the process by melting it down, cooking it for 24 hours at 270° F, removing the sludge, and then combining the filtered wax with new stock. The cooking process is vented to the atmosphere.

Because the wax is recycled, the stock presently being used probably still contains PCB. In addition, the waste sludge separated from the used wax is disposed of in a local land fill.

At present, Precision Castparts is storing 28,464 pounds of PCB's in dry resin form (15,000 lb. Aroclor 5460 and 13,464 lb. of T60 resin from France). There are no plans for either use or disposal.

Until recently, PCB's in liquid form were used in the vacuum pumps. However, a change has been made to a new product which supposedly does not contain PCB's.

The facility was sampled at several locations, which will be described in detail in the evaluation report after the analysis is completed.

*Could this
also be true
of Oremet &
Wah Chang? (Even Tek!)
- seems likely if they had or have
casting operations.*